



December 2004

Review of Strategic Master Plan Goals for 2010

One of the two goals in the *2004 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education* – increasing opportunities for students to earn degrees – includes specific targets for associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, and graduate (master's, doctorate, and professional) degrees. In drafting the plan, the board considered degree data reported annually by the state's public and private higher education institutions.

According to the most recent data, the number of associate degrees conferred in Washington State in 2003-04 exceeded the board's 2010 target by 176 degrees. (The 2010 target is 23,500 associate degrees and the number conferred in 2003-04 was 23,676). The number of bachelor's and graduate degrees conferred is still below the 2010 targets.

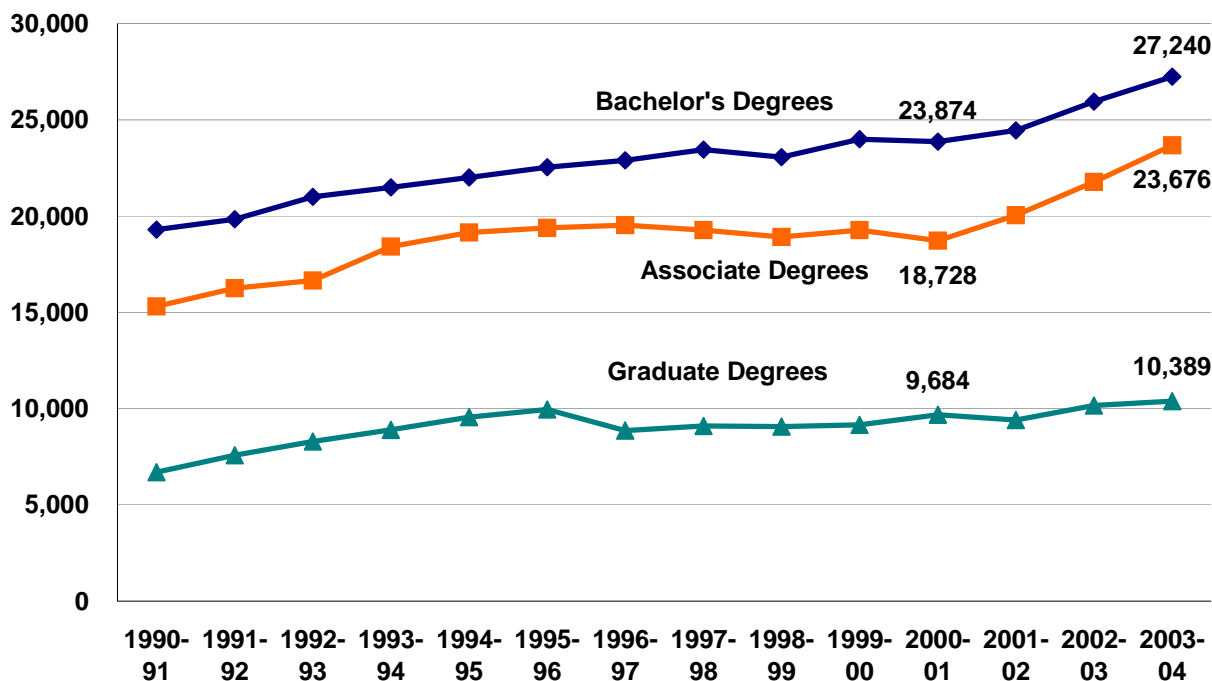
Degrees Earned in Washington State Public and Private Institutions: Degrees Awarded in 2003-04 Compared to HECB 2009-10 Goals

	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2009-10</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Associate Degrees	23,676	23,500	(176)
Bachelor's Degrees	27,240	30,000	2,760
Graduate Degrees	10,389	11,500	1,111

Sources: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and *2004 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education*.

After being essentially flat for much of the 1990s, degree production in Washington State has increased significantly over the past few years. The following chart includes a history of degree production from 1991 to the present.

Chart 1
History of Degrees Conferred in Washington State

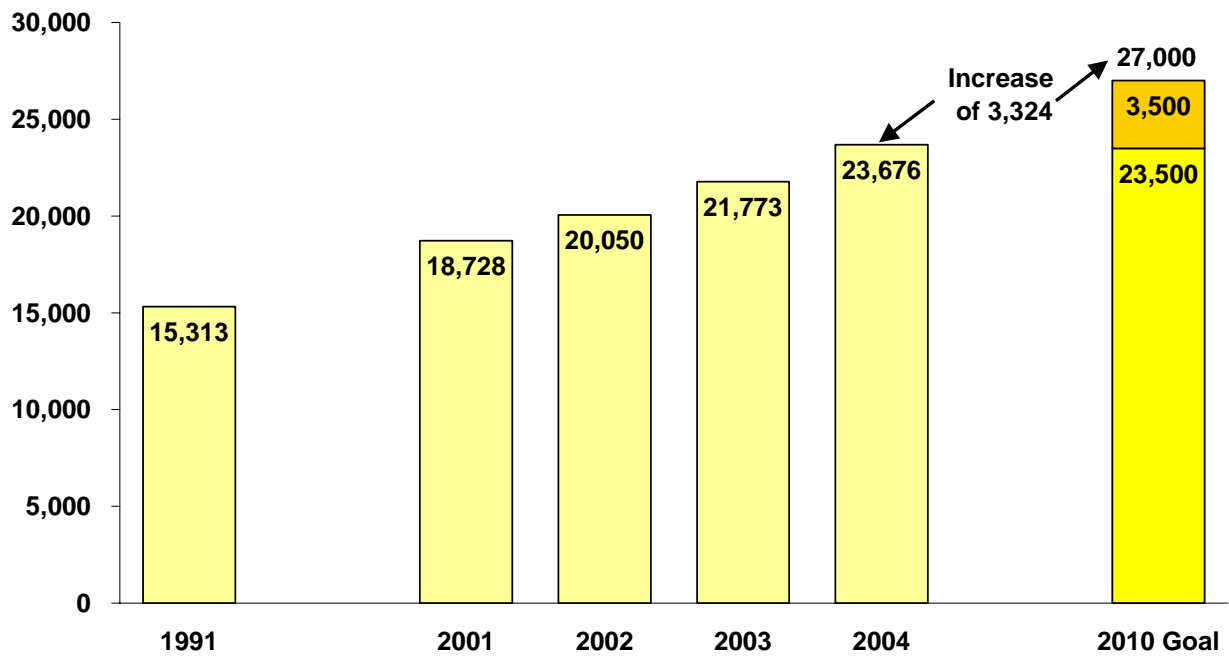


Since 2000-01, the number of bachelor's degrees conferred annually has increased by 3,366 – to 27,240 in 2003-04. The number of associate degrees has increased by 4,948 or more than eight percent per year since 2000-01. The number of graduate degrees conferred annually has increased by 705 degrees.

Staff Recommendation

The 2009-10 target for associate degrees should be increased. After conferring with staff from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), the staff recommendation is to increase the target for associate degrees by 3,500 – to 27,000 by 2009-10. This number is consistent with performance measures adopted by the SBCTC and is within the range of growth they have recently experienced. The total number includes a share for private institutions.

Chart 2
Proposed Goal for Associate Degrees
(Public and Private Institutions)



RESOLUTION NO. 04-35

WHEREAS, State law directs the Higher Education Coordinating Board to prepare every four years a *statewide strategic master plan for higher education* that proposes a vision and identifies goals and priorities for the system of higher education in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, The Higher Education Coordinating Board adopted the *2004 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education* in July 2004; and

WHEREAS, The *2004 Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education* includes specific targets for degree production in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, The board believes the master plan to be a “living document” subject to review and revision as conditions change; and

WHEREAS, The number of associate degrees conferred in Washington in 2003-04 exceeded the goal set by the board;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the 2010 goal for associate degrees is increased by 3,500 to 27,000.

Adopted:

December 10, 2004

Attest:

Bob Craves, Chair

Gene Colin, Secretary